

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 SAB-01

SAM-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 XMB-02 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 R

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DOD/ISA:NFIFER

PM/SAS:COLDFARNHAM

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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O R 112343Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 164128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, YE, SA, US

SUBJECT: YEMENI MILITARY MODERNIZATION: U.S. POSTURE AFTER

YAR SOVIET PLOY

SECRET

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REF: A) STATE 159768, B) SANA 1790, C) SANA 1780

1. WE ARE PLEASED THAT YARG SEEMS TO HAVE STEPPED BACK
FROM ITS SOVIET FLIRTATION FOR MOMENT. NOW THAT YARG HAS

INFORMED SAG OF POSSIBILITY PRESIDENT HAMDI COULD VISIT MOSCOW AND RECEIVE HIGHLY TEMPTING SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE OFFER, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD FOLLOW UP ON THIS MATTER BY RENEWING OUR EFFORTS TO STIMULATE SAUDI ACTION ON THE YAR ARMS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IN HOPE SAUDIS WILL BE PREPARED MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS TO YAR BY TIME THAT YAR DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GHASHMI VISITS SAUDI ARABIA AUGUST 10. WE ALSO NEED TO GET SAUDI REACTION TO OUR LETTER ON YAR ARMS PROGRAM TO PRINCE SULTAN (STATE 122278) WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED BY EMBASSY JIDDA ON MAY 31 AND WHICH CONTAINS VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS THE IMPACT PACKAGE, BUT WHICH DID NOT TRANSMIT ACTUAL L/OS.

2. FOR JIDDA: ACCORDINGLY, AMBASSADOR AKINS, WHO IS RETURNING BRIEFLY TO SAUDI ARABIA, HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WHEN HE MEETS WITH PRINCE SULTAN ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) USG REGARDS RECORD OF HAMDI GOVERNMENT SINCE JUNE 1974 UP TO PRESENT TIME AS OFFERING OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF YAR DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, OTHER MODERATE ARAB STATES, AND THE U.S. AS WELL AS OF DESIRE TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE AND EVENTUALLY ELIMINATE IT AS SOON AS OTHER SOURCES OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE ARE ASSURED.

(B) WE BELIEVE YARG IS SERIOUS ABOUT ITS INTENTIONS BUT WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT YARG HAS REACHED POINT OF CONSIDERABLE FRUSTRATION WHERE IT FEELS IT IS UNABLE TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FROM ITS FRIENDS AND THAT ONLY WILLING SOURCE APPEARS TO BE SOVIET UNION.

(C) WE HOPE THEREFORE THAT SAG WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS WHEN YAR DEPUTY CINC GHASHMI VISITS SAUDI ARABIA AUGUST 10. ON "IMPACT PACKAGE"

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(AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO SULTAN OF MAY 31, STATE 122278, PARA. 2D) ARMY IS CURRENTLY PREPARING LOA FOR DISPATCH BY AIR POUCH TO EMBASSY, WHICH SHOULD ARRIVE AUGUST 7. FOR IMMEDIATE PLANNING PURPOSES, ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE OF PACKAGE IS DOL 1.5 MILLION, WITH DELIVERY WITHIN 2 MONTHS AFTER ACCEPTANCE. LETTERS OF OFFER FOR REMAINING ITEMS (STATE 92278, PARAS. 2E,F) WILL BE PREPARED FOR DISPATCH BY SEP. 5. FURTHER U.S. COMMITMENTS MADE IN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO SULTAN STILL STAND.

(D) THERE ARE NUMBER OF OTHER QUESTIONS AND DETAILS COVERED IN MAY 31 LETTER FOR WHICH USG STILL AWAITS SAUDI RESPONSE. WE HOPE PRINCE SULTAN OR APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF CAN CONSULT WITH EMBASSY/USMTM TO DEVELOP

AGREED U.S.-SAUDI POSITIONS ON THESE OTHER MATTERS. (IF SULTAN AGREES, AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO INSTITUTE SUCH WORKING LEVEL COUNTERPART RELATIONSHIPS AS APPEAR MOST SUITABLE.)

3. FOR SANA: SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE IN SANA WAS MIS-INFORMED ON STATUS OF LETTERS OF OFFER. ALL LETTERS OF OFFER MADE LAST SEPTEMBER BY USG HAVE EXPIRED. AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, AMBASSADOR SCOTTS MAY ADVISE HAMDI, ASNAG AND/OR GHASHMI THAT:

(A) USG CONTINUES TO PURSUE MATTER OF MILITARY MODERNIZATION ACTIVELY WITH SAG. YOU MAY STATE ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS USG ATTEMPTING STIMULATE SAUDIS TO BE PREPARED TO MAKE FIRM COMMITMENTS TO YAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM BY TIME OF AUGUST 10 AL GHAMSHI VISIT TO RIYADH.

(B) USG WELCOMES YAR DECISION POSTPONE HAMDI VISIT TO MOSCOW OR TO ACCEPT SOVIET MILITARY AID. WE BELIEVE YARG SHOULD BE RESTRAINED IN ITS USE OF SOVIET OFFER TO INFLUENCE SAUDIS. WHILE WE FULLY APPRECIATE YEMENI IMPATIENCE, REACTION OF SAUDIS CANNOT BE ASSURED AND AL-HAMDI GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY RECENTLY RECEIVED FULL SAUDI BACKING. IT THEREFORE BEHOOVES YARG TO CULTIVATE NEW SAUDI TRUST AND SEEK TO AVOID PROVOKING SAUDIS TO POINT WHERE SAG MIGHT RECONSIDER RECENT DECISION TO BACK CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN CONTRETEMPS WITH TRIBAL ELEMENTS.

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